



## **Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update** **September 2005**

### **Next HCDOP meeting**

- *When/where*
  - **October 11, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, at the HCSEG office in Belfair**
- *Proposed agenda items for the next meeting*
  - Skokomish Carcass project - year 2 (Amiotte, Skokomish Tribe).

### **Scientific Studies**

- *Project update*
  - Quality Assurance Performance Plan (QAPP) reviews were received and are being addressed and finalized. Anticipated release of the final QAPP is anticipated for late October. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - On September 8, Tom Mumford and Loren Stern (WDNR) invited Dan Hannafious and Matthew Korb (HCSEG), Jan Newton (UW), and Bob Sizemore and Mary Lou Mills (WDFW) to a meeting to discuss coordination of the Molluscan Study with WDFW and WDNR Geoduck surveys (HB1896) and to assure that all projects were well-coordinated within the HCDOP. The meeting resulted in good synergy and helpful amendments to plans. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Battelle conducted sediment coring in Hood Canal during the week of September 19, funded by a hypoxia grant from NOAA to Dr. Eric Crecilius. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Terry Hull participated in UW Onsite Wastewater Shortcourse; presented a paper entitled, Hood Canal's Low Oxygen Problem, the Onsite System Factor; and discussed use of nitrogen isotope analysis to assess contamination of groundwater by household sewage. (Hull, PSAT)
- *New information generated by projects*
  - Dissolved Oxygen (DO), as indicated by the Citizen Monitoring data and the ORCA buoy, show that the minimum DO concentration is at a mid-depth location and not at the sea-bed, as it was previously this summer. This possibly indicates that flushing with new waters may be occurring; however the bottom DO levels are still quite low, below 1 mg/L in Lynch Cove and around 2 at the Great Bend. DO concentrations at Sund Rock were lower (below 2 mg/L) than in previous months, and similarly to Lynch Cove, showed a mid-water column minimum. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

### **Corrective Actions**

- *Project update*

- Preliminary findings by the Mason Conservation District indicate that construction and operation of a commercially available anaerobic digester will likely be suitable for use in the Skokomish Valley. Recent fieldwork has focused on locating a secure site and assessing power-generating potential of the facility. The CD is aiming to write a complete draft report by the end of October. (Glasoe, PSAT).
- HCCC staff met with Clifton Beach homeowners interested in pursuing a community sewage system along the north shore of Hood Canal, at the intersection of Clifton and Landon Roads. About 50 people attended the meeting on September 3. (Christensen, HCCC)
- HCCC staff are working with PSAT staff to complete an outline of the Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program, and finalize a scope of work between the governor's office and the HCCC to fund implementation of HB 2097. (Christensen, HCCC/Fagergren, PSAT)
- The analysis of the attitude survey of homeowners in the Hood Canal watershed is being completed. The information will be presented to the HCCC Board on October 12. Copies of the interim draft report being prepared for the HCCC Board will be brought to the October 11 HCDOP meeting. (Christensen, HCCC)
- HCCC staff met with the Port of Hoodport about a possible pumpout facility in Hoodport. HCCC staff will be assisting the Port in obtaining information to make their final decision and to obtain funding needed for the facility. (Christensen, HCCC)
- HCCC is working with Shorebank Pacific Enterprises, a non-profit organization, to develop a program for Hood Canal that provides solutions for low-income homeowners to repair onsite sewage systems. HCCC staff attended one meeting in which key state and federal agencies attended. HCCC followed up by hosting a meeting with staff from the three counties health departments. (Christensen, HCCC)
- Kitsap Health District's Shoreline Onsite Septic System Survey has been sent out for review and comment. Kitsap Health is hoping to have comments back by mid-October so they can finalize the report. (Grellner, Kitsap Health)
- Participated in a joint state/local staff meeting to review proposed deliverables for contracts that Ecology will write to cover state appropriations for local health surveys of Hood Canal shorelines. (Hull, PSAT)
- Discussed an additional onsite sewage treatment technology (sequencing batch reactor) with an area consultant. One such system was recently installed at an SR 106 shoreline site to serve a home rebuild. (Hull, PSAT)
- Met with the distributor of Pirana products to discuss a potential demonstration of this nitrogen-removing technology. (Hull, PSAT)
- A second BioMicrobics Retrofast onsite treatment device was installed at an SR 106 site and is now in operation. (Hull, PSAT)
- Mason Health has approved the construction permit for installation of a 3-home cluster sewage system. This demonstration project will use rotating biological contactors for treatment and a drip irrigation field for dissipation. Construction is anticipated to start this month. (Hull, PSAT)

- This past summer WSU Mason County gave out 2,663 screens to 1,740 households in the Mason County portion of the watershed to help trap food particles and reduce the flow of nitrogen from failing septic systems in the Hood Canal. WSU provided 27 free worm farms or compost bins in exchange for nitrogen-contributing garbage disposals. (King, WSU Mason Cty.)
- Met with part of the Interagency State Team on Hood Canal to coordinate messages on sewerage and onsite discussions for projects funded this biennium in Hood Canal. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- Met with Keith Dublanica and Lalena Amiotte of the Skokomish Tribe to refine the scope of work and budget for this biennium's chum salmon carcass removal work. Lalena reported good progress with four buyers for different egg and salmon products, and meetings with targeted fishing families have begun. (Fagergren, PSAT).

### **Outreach**

- *Public education and outreach updates*
  - The Watershed Pledge and Shore Stewards provided a booth and outreach materials at the Quilcene Fair on September 24 and Oysterfest on September 30. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - The Watershed Pledge is currently in the process of drafting an evaluation survey for pledge members. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - WSU Jefferson County has given away almost 500 Watershed Pledge books and have had 20 people return applications so far. WSU held one workshop on native gardening is organizing another on beach erosion. WSU has attended 12 different festivals this year and has given Shore Stewards on 5 occasions. They have talks scheduled with the Kitsap County Master Gardeners, Clallam County Beach Watchers and Watershed Day VII. (Pearson, WSU Jefferson County).
  - Met with members of the Hood Canal Community Improvement Club in Union to discuss the dissolved oxygen problem, sources, potential solutions, and citizen participation. (Hull, PSAT)
  - Delivered a presentation on Hood Canal at the Pacific Shellfish Growers Association/ National Shellfisheries Association annual meeting in Hood River in late September. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *Comments/questions from public*
  - Jeff Edwards (Microsoft) wrote an email to Jan Newton inquiring on the status of Dabob and Quilcene Bays with regard to hypoxia. These bays are not being actively monitored as part of HCDOP or PSAMP monitoring. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Hood Canal Community Improvement Club members expressed frustration at the lack of information (in the media or their mailboxes) that describes optional kinds of nitrogen-removing onsite sewage treatment devices that they might voluntarily install as system upgrades. (Hull, PSAT)
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
  - HCCC Board meeting October 12, 2005. (Christensen, HCCC)

- HCCC Environmental Achievement Awards December 2, 2005, Alderbrook. There will be an opportunity and space for a poster session. Sue Texeira can provide more information at [stexeira@hctc.com](mailto:stexeira@hctc.com).
- “Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective” Satellite Conference 9-11:30am Tuesday October 11, 2005 at the Norm Dicks Government Building Conference Room, Bremerton (345 6<sup>th</sup> Ave). Pre-registration is not necessary and this program is free. (Piper, HCWEN)
- Hood Canal Watershed Education Network (HCWEN) October 13, 2005 1-4pm, Kitsap SSWM Annex, Bremerton (Piper, HCWEN)
- The Watershed Pledge/ Shore Stewards will be providing presentations to the Clallam Co. Beach Watchers on October 27, The Mason County Master Gardeners on October 28, and have a display at “Sound Tourism Sound Environment” on November 10. (Piper, HCWEN)
- Jan Newton and Dan Hannafious were invited by Dr. Quay Dortch (NOAA) to give presentations at the Estuarine Research Federation meeting in Norfolk, VA October 16-20 on Hood Canal hypoxia in the “Use of observing systems for understanding, monitoring and predicting HABs and Hypoxia” session. She was interested in a talk on our observing network in Hood Canal and specifically on our use of Citizen Monitoring integration in the science investigation as part of that network. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

### **Funding**

- *Funding needs*
  - Weather stations. There is a need to have more localized weather information from multiple locations on the canal and within the watershed. This is becoming apparent to the marine and terrestrial modelers. (Hannafious/HCSEG))
- *Upcoming funding opportunities*
  - The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has announced the creation of a 2 million dollar foundation called the “Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund.” The grants will be used to finance habitat restoration and conservation, landowner outreach, and collaborative projects from local communities etc. More information and the RFP can be found at the Foundation’s website [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org). Questions may be directed to Krystyna Wolniakowski at [wolniakowski@nfwf.org](mailto:wolniakowski@nfwf.org) or by calling 503.417.8700 ext 22. Applications are due on November 10, 2005.

### **Legislative or Congressional action or briefings**

- *Legislative contacts/meetings*
  - Met with Brad Ack, Representative Eickmeyer, Senator Tim Sheldon and committee staff on progress made on ESHB 2097 and our SOW discussions with the HCCC (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *Briefings*
  - Several members of the HCDOP briefed the Select Committee on Hood Canal in Olympia on September 16, 2005 at their request. The presentation covered all aspects of HCDOP but focused on IAM study results. Sections of the presentation were given by Jan Newton (UW), Duane Fagergren (PSAT), Dave

Christensen (HCCC), Mark Warner (UW), Dan Hannafious (HCSEG), Al Devol (UW), and Jeff Richey (UW). A briefing on October 25, 2005 in Belfair will focus on corrective actions and education work.

### **Media**

- *Media contacts or requests*
  - John Williams (Still Hope Productions) spent part of a day on Hood Canal filming ORCA and sampling footage for a short 'Hood Canal' documentary piece to be released in the near future. (Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Talked to Kitsap Sun reporter, Chris Dunagan about progress being made on Hood Canal corrective actions projects. (Fagergren, PSAT)
- *Media coverage*

[http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN\\_19088\\_4130656,00.html](http://www1.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_4130656,00.html)